

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended). An angling coupler comprising:

A. a first end connectable to a first prosthetic component and having:

- 5 i. a first end longitudinal axis; and
- ii. a first end base with a first end surface , said first end surface being concave and said first end having a first end hole through said first end base in a direction generally parallel to said first end longitudinal axis;

B. a second end connectable to a second prosthetic component and having:

- 10 i. a second end longitudinal axis; and
- ii. a second end base with a second end surface , said second end surface being convex and adapted to be matingly connected to said first end surface; ~~and~~
- iii. a slot through said second end base in a plane generally parallel to said second end longitudinal axis; and
- 15 iv. a second end hole through said second end base in a direction generally perpendicular to said second end longitudinal axis, and

C. a connector for being received in said second hole and comprising a

- connector pin defining a fixed axis of rotation and having a connector pin hole, said connector further comprising a fastener for being inserted through said first end hole and
- 20 said slot and into said connector pin hole, the connector ~~for~~ adjustably and rigidly connecting said first end and said second end such that said first end longitudinal axis is in a selected angular alignment with respect to said second end longitudinal axis and said

first end is angularly adjustable with respect to said second end about said fixed axis ~~or~~ of rotation,

wherein said fastener is insertable through said first end hole and said slot and into said connector pin hole while said first end remains stationary with respect to said

5 second end.

2 (Original). The angled coupler of Claim 1 wherein:

- A. said first end comprises a collar; and
- B. said first prosthetic component comprises a pylon.

3 (Original). The angled coupler of Claim 1 wherein:

- 10 A. said second end comprises a receiver; and
- B. said second prosthetic component comprises a pyramidal adapter.

4 (Cancelled).

5 (Original). The angled coupler of Claim 4 wherein said first end surface and said second end surface are serrated.

15 6 (Cancelled).

7 (Original). The angled coupler of Claim 6 wherein said slot limits a range of said selected angular alignment about said fixed axis of rotation.

8 (Original). The angled coupler of Claim 7 wherein said range of said selected angular alignment about said fixed axis of rotation is approximately 50 degrees.

20 9 (Currently Amended). An angled coupler comprising:

- A. a first end adapted to receive a first prosthetic component and comprising:
  - i. a first end longitudinal axis; and
  - ii. first end base having:

- a. a concave surface; and
  - b. a first end hole through said concave surface generally parallel to said first end longitudinal axis;
  - B. a second end adapted to receive a second prosthetic component and
- 5 comprising:
- i. a second end longitudinal axis; and
  - ii. a second end base having:
    - a. a second end hole through said second base in a direction generally perpendicular to said second end longitudinal axis;
    - 10 b. a ~~concave~~ convex surface; and
    - c. a slot lying in a plane generally parallel to said second end longitudinal axis:
  - C. a pin for being received in said hole through said second base; and
  - D. a fastener for being inserted through said first end hole and said slot, and
  - 15 into said pin to hold said concave surface of said first end in mating engagement with said convex surface of said second end,
- wherein said first longitudinal axis is in a selected angular alignment with respect to said second longitudinal axis, and
- wherein said first end is stationary with respect to said second end when said
- 20 fastener is being inserted into said pin.

10 (Original). The angled coupler of Claim 9 wherein:

- A. said first end comprises a collar; and
- B. said first prosthetic component comprises a pylon.

11 (Original). The angled coupler of Claim 9 wherein:

- A. said second end comprises a receiver; and
- B. said second prosthetic component comprises a pyramidal adapter for being received within said receiver.

5 12 (Currently Amended). The angled coupler of Claim 9 wherein said first end has an interior surface at an end of said first hole, and said fastener is a bolt for being turned into said pin, said bolt having a head, wherein said head abuts said interior surface.

13 (Original). The angled coupler of Claim 9 wherein said selected angular alignment is adjustable within a range of approximately 50 degrees.

10 14 (Original). The angled coupler of Claim 9 wherein said concave surface of said first end base and said convex surface of said second end base are serrated.

15 (Original). The angled coupler of Claim 14 wherein said serrated concave surface of said first end base and said serrated convex surface of said second end base hold said first end in incremental mating engagement with said second end.

15 16 (Original). The angled coupler of Claim 15 wherein said serrated concave surface of said first end base and said serrated convex surface of said second end base hold said first end in incremental mating engagement with said second end in approximately 2.5 degree increments.

17 (Original). In combination:

- 20 A. a pylon having a first end and a longitudinal axis;
- B. a pyramidal adapter; and
- C. an angularly adjustable coupling assembly comprising:
  - i. a first end with:

a. a collared clamp for being removeably connected to said first end of said pylon; and

b. a first end base; and

ii. a second end with:

5 a. a receiver for being removeably connected to said pyramidal adapter; and

b. a second end base angularly adjustably connected to said first end base about a fixed axis of rotation.

18 (Original). The combination of Claim 17 wherein:

10 A. said first end comprises a concave surface; and

B. said second end comprises a convex surface adapted to be in mating engagement with said concave surface of said first end.

19 (Original). The combination of Claim 18 wherein said concave surface and said convex surface are serrated.

15 20 (Original). The combination of Claim 18 wherein:

A. said second end has a second end hole therethrough and a slot therethrough that is generally perpendicular to said second end hole;

B. said first end has a first end hole therethrough; and

C. said angularly adjustable coupling assembly further comprises:

20 i. a pin having a side hole and for being received within said second end hole; and

ii. a fastener for being inserted through said first end hole and said slot, and into said pin side hole to hold said first end and said second end in a selected angular alignment with respect to each other.

21 (Currently Amended). A method of assembling a prosthetic limb comprising the steps of:

- A. providing a socket having a socket central axis and a socket end;
- B. providing an adapter having an adapter central axis and being connectable to the socket end;
- C. providing a prosthetic component;

10          D.   connecting the adapter to the socket end wherein the adapter central axis is offset from the socket central axis by a first angle lying in a plane defined by the adapter central axis and the socket central axis;

  E.   providing a coupler having a first end with a first end longitudinal axis and a fastener within the first end, and a second end with a second end longitudinal axis and with a hole in the second end for receiving a pin, wherein the fastener is turnable into the pin and wherein the first end is angularly adjustable with respect to the second end about a fixed axis of rotation;

[[E]] F.   rotating the first end of the coupler with respect to the second end of the coupler about the fixed axis of rotation until the first end longitudinal axis is generally offset from the second end longitudinal axis by a second angle, wherein the second angle is substantially equal to the first angle, and then turning the fastener into the pin; and

[[F]] G. connecting the second end of the coupler to the adapter wherein the fixed axis of rotation is generally perpendicular to the plane defined by the adapter central axis and the socket central axis so that the first end longitudinal axis is generally parallel to the socket central axis ; and

- 5 H. connecting the prosthetic component to the first end of the coupler to conceal the fastener.

22 (Cancelled).

23 (New). The method of Claim 21 wherein:

- A. the step of providing a first end comprises further the step of having a first  
10 end having a first hole that is generally parallel to the first end longitudinal axis;
- B. the step of providing a second end comprises further the step of having a slot; and
- C. the step of providing a fastener comprises further the step of providing a bolt that is insertable through the first hole and the slot.

15 24 (New). The method of Claim 23 wherein:

- A. the step of providing a first end further comprises the step of providing a first end with an inner surface;
- B. the step of providing a bolt further comprises the step of providing a bolt with a head; and
- 20 C. the step of turning the fastener into the pin further comprises the step of turning the fastener into the pin until the head abuts the inner surface of the first end.

25 (New). The combination of Claim 17 further comprising a fastener for connecting said first end to said second end,

wherein said fastener is only capable of being loosened while contacting said fastener at a location inside of said collared clamp, and wherein said first end remains stationary with respect to said second end upon the loosening of said fastener.

26 (New). In combination:

- 5           A.     a pylon having a first end and a longitudinal axis;
  - B.     a pyramidal adapter; and
  - C.     an angularly adjustable coupling assembly comprising:
    - i.       a first end with:
      - a.       a collared clamp for being removeably connected to said
      - 10      first end of said pylon; and
      - b.     a first end base comprising a concave surface;
- wherein said first end has a first end hole therethrough;
- ii.    a second end with:
    - a.       a receiver for being removeably connected to said
    - 15      pyramidal adapter; and
    - b.     a second end base comprising a convex surface adapted to
- be in mating engagement with said concave surface of said first end for angularly adjustably connecting said first end and said second end about a fixed axis of rotation,
- wherein second end has a second end hole therethrough and a slot therethrough
- 20      that is generally perpendicular to said second end hole;
- iii.   a pin having a side hole and for being received within said second end hole; and



iv. a fastener for being inserted through said first end hole and said slot, and into said pin side hole to hold said first end and said second end in a selected angular alignment with respect to each other.

27 (New). An angling coupler comprising:

5 A. a first end connectable to a first prosthetic component and having:

i. a first end longitudinal axis; and

ii. a first end base with a first end concave surface and a first end inner surface, said first end having a hole between said first end concave surface and said first end inner surface, said hole being in a direction generally parallel to said first end longitudinal axis;

B. a second end connectable to a second prosthetic component and having:

i. a second end longitudinal axis; and

ii. a second end base with a second end convex surface adapted to be matingly connected to said first end concave surface;

15 iii. a slot through said second end base in a plane generally parallel to said second end longitudinal axis; and

iv. a second end hole through said second end base in a direction generally perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, and

C. a pin for being received within said second hole, said pin having a pin hole; and

20 D. a fastener having a head and a shaft, said head abutting said first end inner surface when said shaft is received within said pin hole to rigidly connect said first end and said second end in a selected angular alignment.